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SECURITY INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

MESSAGE

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ROUTINE****PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED**

FROM: USARMA ATHENS GREECE SGD JOHMECHING
TO: DEPTAR WASH DC FOR G2
NR: MID 379 R1(12)

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231445Z NOV 51

Re 8778] opinion there correct re indiv items. My cable attempted show reason for GNA fears and current adverse morale effect. Moves of themselves not Communist or even dangerously to left. Together they effect an opening of a channel to left thru which Gre might drift or as cited my MID 373 while beginnings are small, potentiality has developed they may snowball. There are many thousands of self exiled Communists and fellow travellers who will return Gre if it appears they can do so undetected or unpenalized. Communist line has consistently clamored for "amnesty" permitting such return. With 10% vote currently Communistic substantial increase might encourage minority seizure on lines Czechoslovakia, particularly if possible return to proportional system elections allows Communist Ministers. One safeguard against such eventuality has been close British observation and influence on Ministry of Pub Ord. State Dept authorized Emb make strong plea for retention Pol Mission. Plea made but Bri Budgetary considerations were overriding. Minister and current Drship not suspect, but there has been increasing talk of purge and reshuffle in security forces, in fact this hinted in amnesty prog (R-624), and Communists will attempt insert themselves these controlling functions if opportunity provided. Embassy acknowledges need some UN watch agency for borders if UNSCOB goes. UNSCOB has not been much more than psychological safeguard causing satellites take care lest attempted penetrations be observed. Such penetration will be that much more free after UNSCOB goes. Embassy fully cognizant moderation and effect amnesty prog (R-624) however aside from steady progress, press controversy and editorializing concerning program are themselves causing trepidation (MID 380) and damaging mil morale. Some local military most anxious members this office remain aware their fears. Disbandment TEA more than campaign threat (which resulted depriving units arms) receiving active consideration with strong mil reaction. Even partial disbandment will be looked in by some elems as atk on mil str as reinforce kept high for morale Greek people. No question Parl legality seating Communist deputies however their presence

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leaves conservative Gre with bad taste and is widely pointed out in conversation as evidence of ever present threat Grk integrity. Papagos himself advocates leniency prog but avers strong Govt needed to handle.

This office feels G2 should be aware of toe in door and watchful for entry Commie foot. MID 373 deliberately general and pointed towards possibilities to this end.

Note: 373 is DA IN 622 (19 Nov 51) G2
 380 is DA IN 2388 (24 Nov 51) G2

ACTION: G2

INFO: G3, AF, NAVY, G2(STATE, CIA)

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